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ABSTRACT

The project Teaching Science with TOYS promotes toys as an ideal mechanism for science instruction, because they are an everyday part of the students' world and carry a user-friendly message. TOYS Teacher Resource Modules are collections of "TOYS" activities grouped around a topic or theme with supporting science content and pedagogical materials. The modules have been developed specifically for teachers who want to use active learning, toy-based physical science activities in their classrooms. This module focuses on matter and is comprised of a collection of 24 activities written for use at the middle school level. Students explore matter in its three states, compare and contrast the properties between those states, and determine the conditions necessary for matter to change from one state to another. Everyday objects used include balloons, plastic eggs, soccer balls, marshmallows, rock candy, and aluminum cans. All activities include variations and extensions as well as suggestions for cross-curricular integration. This module is organized into three main sections: (1) "Content Review"; (2) "Pedagogical Strategies"; and (3) "Module Activities." The list of activities is divided into sections based on whether they address states of matter or changes of state. A matrix shows how the activities relate to the National Science Education Standards. (PVD)

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